

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

2024 NOV 26
7:30 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Ellen Chambers (Chair)
Donica LeBlanc (Vice Chair)
Pat Johansen
Ron Oikonen
George Saarinen
Ryan Sitch
Trudy Tuchenhagen
Leah Vanderwey

Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous
Trustee)
Emily Drake (Indigenous Student
Trustee)
Morgann De Franceschi (Student
Trustee)

TRUSTEE ABSENT, WITH REGRET:

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education
Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business
Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education
Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education
Nick Sacevich, Associate Superintendent and Math/IT Lead

PUBLIC SESSION:

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

"THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting, November 26, 2024 be approved."

CARRIED

2. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

"THAT we resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session with Trustee Chambers in the chair to consider the following:

- *Confirmation of Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes
- Regular Board Meeting – October 22, 2024*
- *Finance Matter*
- *Legal Matters*

and that this meeting shall not be open to the public pursuant to Section 207 (2) of the Education Act as amended."

CARRIED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION:

3. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

PUBLIC SESSION:

4. Report of Committee of the Whole

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT the Report of the Regular Board – Committee of the Whole – Closed Session be adopted with the following recommendations therein:

1. *'THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, October 22, 2024.'*
2. *'THAT Lakehead District School Board approve participation by the Board, and/or its staff, in the Mass Tort (litigation) against Social Media Companies.'*

CARRIED

2. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Oikonen read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Trustee Character Award

Trustee Tuchenhausen, on behalf of the Board, presented Ms. Ryne Veldhoen, Volunteer and retired teacher, Nor'Wester View Public School, with the Trustees' Character Award. Ms. Ryne was recognized for her dedication, kindness and generosity that has impacted so many of Lakehead Public School's (LPS) students and staff alike.

4. Algonquin Avenue Public School – Experiential and Indigenous Education Focus at Algonquin Avenue Public School

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, introduced Eilidh Childs and Kari McKeown, Teachers, Algonquin Avenue Public School, who presented information on Experiential Learning and Indigenous Education at the school. All trustees' questions were addressed.

5. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhausen

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting -October 22, 2024"

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:

7. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Sitch advised that there is nothing currently to report and the next OPSBA Directors meeting is this weekend.

8. Student Trustee Report (Handout)

Morgann De Franceschi, Student Trustee presented her November report to the Board. Items addressed in the report included: a brief summary of the Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA-AECO) conference that she attended with Indigenous Student Trustee Drake, planning for the upcoming virtual Reach Ahead program question and answer session, and preparing for the Indigenous Student Trustee interviews. All trustees' questions were addressed.

9. Indigenous Student Trustee Report (Handout)

Emily Drake, Indigenous Student Trustee, presented her November report to the Board. Items addressed in the report included: a brief summary of the Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA-AECO) conference that she attended with Student Trustee De Franceschi, the first Indigenous Leadership Council meeting that she led at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute, her plans to introduce a Truth and Reconciliation Committee for students, and current concerns from students. Indigenous Student Trustee Drake informed the Board of her plans to attend Hammarskjold High School to speak with students regarding the upcoming interviews for Indigenous Student Trustee. All trustees' questions were addressed.

10. Updates from the Chair/ Director

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, informed the Board of the following:

- the undefeated city champions from Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute's Sr. Football team, attended the Northern Bowl;
- Hammarskjold High School's Sr. Girls Basketball team attended OFSAA, competing at the AA level for the first time provincially and were successful in achieving first place;
- last week was Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Lakehead Public Schools (LPS) held many activities throughout the week for students. Superintendent Probizanski offered small grants to each school that wanted to organize special events. The following are a couple highlights: Gorham and Ware Community School invited Roseneath Theater to their school, Ogden Community Public School along with McKellar Park Central Public School attended the production, and Nor'wester View Public School created anti-bullying pledges;
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) offered a presentation for parents/ guardians and caregivers of students last week, speaker Kate Swenson, a mother of an autistic child, presented at the event held at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute;
- Grade 3 students from across the city participated in the Grade 3 Sing-Along with the Symphony held last weekend at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium;
- an Artist/Craft show held at the Valhalla Hotel and Conference Centre, in which two schools from LPS had student artists participate by selling their art;
- this past week was the launch of the Suicide Prevention and Intervention Protocol Desk Reference Guide for principals, along with the training that goes along with the protocol. Principals and vice principals have also had the Behaviour Management System Training on how to respond and de-escalate behavioural incidents that occur in the schools;
- Grade 10 Civics class from Hammarskjold High School travelled to the Ontario Legislature at Queens Park. Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute and Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute will attend next. The visit was funded by a grant from the Ministry of Education;
- Lakehead Public Schools had a Professional Activity day on November 15, 2024, the elementary schools focused on Math Professional Learning Communities in the morning sessions and Literacy in the afternoon sessions. There were separate sessions on French as a Second Language, Native Language, Instrumental Music, Culinary, etc.; and
- Math Night is coming up November 27, 2024 evening.

11. Bright Beginnings Kindergarten Readiness Program (114-24)

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, introduced Jolene Wilhelm, Early Years Resource and Support Teacher, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

12. Lakehead Public Schools International Education (117-24)

Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education, introduced Jon-David Dowdell, International Student Coordinator, who presented the report along with two LPS international students, Sebastian and Mariana. All trustees' questions were addressed.

13. 2024-2025 Capital Plan (116-24)

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, introduced Mark Hakala, Capital Project Coordinator and Don Porter, Manager of Property Services, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

14. Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee – September 9, 2024

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, presented the minutes from the September 9, 2024 Parent Involvement Committee Meeting. There were no questions from trustees.

15. Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes – June 13, 2024 and September 26, 2024

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, presented the minutes from the June 13, 2024 and September 26, 2024 meetings. There were no questions from trustees.

Matters For Decision

16. By-Law No. 125 – 2025 Tax Levy (115-24)

Moved by Trustee Oikonen

Seconded by Trustee Wemigwans

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve By-Law No.125 – 2025 Tax Levy (Appendix A) authorizing the 2025 tax levy at the prescribed rates set by Ontario Regulation 400/98 as amended, as outlined in Report No. 115-24."

CARRIED

17. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (121-24)

Policy Review – 8015 Display of Flags (108-24)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve 8015 – Display of Flags Policy, Appendix A to Report No. 108-24."

CARRIED

18. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (121-24)

Policy Review – 4005 English Language Learners' (111-24)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board rescind 4005 English Language Learners' Policy."

CARRIED

19. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (121-24)

Policy Review – 6065 Prevalent Medical Conditions (113-24)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

“THAT Lakehead District School Board approve 6065 Prevalent Medical Conditions Policy, Appendix A to Report No. 113-24.”

CARRIED

20. Trustee Code of Conduct Report (122-24)

Moved by Trustee Wemigwans

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

“THAT Lakehead District School Board strike a Trustee Code of Conduct Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Trustees, Tuchenhausen, Chambers, Johansen and Vanderwey, and report its progress back to the Board no later than February, 2025.”

CARRIED

21. Ad Hoc and Special Committee Reports

22. New Reports

23. New Business

24. Notices of Motion

25. Information and Inquiries

25.1 Chair Chambers informed the Board of the following events that were attended by LDSB trustees and senior administrators:

- November 13, 2024 – Hammarckjold High School's Student Achievement Night;
- November 14, 2024 – Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute's Student Achievement Night;
- November 19, 2024 – Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute's Student Achievement Night; and
- November 20, 2024 – SEAC in partnership with Autism Northwest held a keynote speaker event at Superior CVI (Speaker - Kate Swenson).

25.2 Vice Chair LeBlanc informed the Board that she attended the OPSBA and CSBA Webinar on Federal Political Climate discussion today. It was suggested that School Boards consider the following two important points approaching the upcoming elections:

- if boards want to keep programs that may be pulled, make an argument on how the programs are working and make sure the government knows that parents are demanding that programming; and
- Boards should encourage the current government to put in place support for food programs before the election occurs, as the newly elected government may not support food programs moving forward.

25.3 Trustee Wemigwans informed the Board that he attended a presentation at the local Hotel Association meeting with General Managers from the area's hotels. The presentation was put on by Roger Drcar, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program Coordinator/ Specialist High Skills Major Lead, and a group of Cooperative Education (Co-op) students. The presentation highlighted the LPS Co-op programs and what skills students may have to offer to local hotel businesses.

26. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

"THAT we do now adjourn at 9:55 p.m."

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – February 25, 2025


Chair


Secretary

